

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new paragraph beginning at page 1, before the "Field of the Invention" with the following paragraph:

- - CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/196,767 which was filed July 16, 2002 (U.S. Patent No. 6,619,659 September 16, 2003), which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/813,518 which was filed on March 20, 2001, (U.S. Patent No. 6,419,226, July 16, 2002), which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/128,218, filed August 3, 1998, (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,008, March 20, 2001), which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/649,821, filed May 17, 1996 (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,230, August 4, 1998). Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is claimed with regard to said prior applications. Said prior applications are also incorporated by reference hereinto in their entirety. - -

The replacement specification paragraphs incorporate the following amendments. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

The paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9, has been amended as follows:

The game machine of the present invention is shown generally at 2 in Figure 1. The present invention comprises a generally upright gaming cabinet 4, the upper portion of which houses the playing field 6 which in turn is covered by a transparent front glass 44. The playing field is inclined, more preferably vertical, so that the balls may fall under the force of gravity. At the top of playing field 6, there are three zone deflectors 8a, 8b, and 8c, just below and slightly to the right of each deflector there is a zone divider wall 10a, 10b, and 10c. Zone deflectors 8a, 8b, and 8c along with zone divider walls 10a, 10b, and 10c divide the upper portion of the playing field into drop zones I, II, III and IV.

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 6, has been amended as follows:

Referring to Fig. 4, in a typical playing cycle the player will put coins in the machine at coin input or receptacle 60, or play existing credits indicated by credit display 64, the same as regular slot machines. At this point all LCDs go blank. The player then hits a drop zone button 36 once

and new symbols are selected and displayed on the exit position symbol display 24. The player can now pull the traditional slot machine handle 38 or push a play button 62 or a zone select button 36 again to launch the balls along a path of travel 16 shown in Fig. 1. Upon first push of a zone select button 36, a zone deflector 8 is also activated and moves into it an extended position 8e.

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 17, has been amended as follows:

It is within the scope of the present invention to use any number of balls launched one at a time or in groups. It is advantageous to use a smaller number of balls launched simultaneously in order to keep the cycle rate on the game as short as possible. It is also ~~within~~ within the scope of the present invention to use balls that have an offset center of mass.